

hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred April 13, 2001 in San Antonio, TX. A 39 year old man was attacked because he was thought to be a homosexual, according to police. The victim was attacked in a park by a man with a knife. The man held the victim in a bear hug before stabbing him in the chest with what was described as a three-inch Buck knife. The suspect was heard to call the victim anti-gay names as he stabbed him.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a dire situation in my state. North Carolina is in the midst of a severe drought, and there is no significant rainfall in sight.

North Carolinians are used to hot, dry summers. But the dry spell has lingered and transformed itself into one of the worst droughts in the state's history. The entire State is under drought condition and most areas are experiencing "extreme drought." A significant portion of the Piedmont is experiencing an "exceptional drought," according to the U.S. Geological Survey. In fact, the Piedmont is short almost a full year's worth of rain and the city of Greensboro has a little more than 100 days supply of water.

The damage estimates are already staggering. This drought has put many of our farmers on the edge of financial ruin. At a time of the year when you can drive down any rural North Carolina road and see lush, green crops ready for harvest, farmers are struggling to find enough water to save what hasn't already withered in the blazing sun. Farmers in more than half of North Carolina's 100 counties have already experienced more than 35 percent crop loss and it is still early in our growing season.

But it is not just North Carolina's farmers that are suffering. Small businesses are particularly impacted by the mandatory water restrictions. Believe it or not, drought is not a recognized disaster under the Small Business Administration's Disaster Assistance Program.

Of course, we can't make it rain. We can't cool the weather and slow the evaporation of our lakes and streams. But there are things we can do to help those impacted by this disaster. There are steps we should take immediately. I have asked Secretary Ann Veneman to certify our counties as disaster so our farmers can get the crop loss as-

sistance it is clear they will so desperately need. I urge the administration to quickly act to help my farmers. President Bush is scheduled to travel to Greensboro, one of the most parched areas of North Carolina next week. I hope by then his administration will have recognized the dire conditions and approved my State's request for help.

In the meantime, I am proud to cosponsor the Small Business Drought Relief Act, S. 2734. This is a straightforward measure that will bring important relief to thousands of small business owners by expanding the Small Business Administration's definition of disaster to include droughts.

Another measure that I am supporting is the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2002, S. 2528. This measure creates a Federal drought preparedness and response policy, one that is so obviously needed. We in North Carolina know all too well the expertise and assistance the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides following a hurricane or tornado. We need that same clear, concise policy for droughts.

But these measures can't help with the impact this drought is having on my State right this moment. North Carolinians are doing their part. Under the leadership of Governor Easley, cities and towns are advancing reasonable water-use restrictions. Residents are conserving, and we are all hoping and praying for a good rain.

We need the administration to act quickly on the state's disaster requests. We need to get these residents the help they need.

#### PESTICIDE HARMONIZATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Senators CONRAD and ROBERTS for holding an important hearing today in the Senate Agriculture Production and Price Competitiveness Subcommittee concerning S. 532, the Pesticide Harmonization Act. It is my pleasure to cosponsor this important legislation.

Differences in the prices of agricultural pesticides in the United States and Canada are one of the most important issues in bilateral trade discussions. Grains harvested in the United States compete on the open market against grains grown in Canada. Much of Canadian grain is treated with pesticides substantially less expensive than those used in the United States. I feel it is necessary for the United States to allow growers to access Canadian pesticides in order to remain competitive on the open market. I commend Senator DORGAN for his leadership on this issue, as lead sponsor of this legislation, which would allow U.S. farmers to access chemicals approved in the U.S. but sold at discounted rates in Canada.

Currently, farmers pay 117 to 193 percent higher prices in the U.S. than in Canada for virtually identical prod-

ucts. Canadian producers are applying less expensive pesticides to their crops and exporting their commodities to the U.S., where the same chemicals cannot be legally purchased at the Canadian reduced price by American producers. Our farmers are not allowed access to these pesticides, but must still compete with Canadian crops grown with these products.

American farmers are at a clear disadvantage to Canadian farmers due to the price differences in agricultural pesticides. This is another example of how NAFTA has put American producers at a disadvantage. I did not support or vote for NAFTA, even though supporters claimed that the trade agreement would create free, equal trade between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In fact, NAFTA contributes to the present agricultural pesticide differential pricing problem. Allowing Canada to export millions of bushels of grain into the U.S. without restriction was intended to create equal trade, but has instead placed our agricultural industry at a disadvantage.

Furthermore, the agricultural disadvantage that hinders American farmers in this situation, benefits no one other than the pesticide industry. This industry sells the same product to Americans for twice the price that it is sold to the Canadians producers across the boarder.

S. 532 would eliminate the competitive advantage Canadian producers have over American producers by amending the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. This legislation would permit a State to register a Canadian pesticide for distribution and use within that State if the pesticide is substantially similar or identical to one already registered in the U.S.

I am confident the time to act on this matter is now.

#### THE NATIONAL FARMWORKER JOBS PROGRAM

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to urge Congress to support full funding for the National Farmworker Jobs Program.

Zeroing out funding for the National Farmworker Jobs Program as proposed in the Bush Administration's Fiscal Year 2003 budget would be wrong for our country and wrong for New Jersey. Close to 600 migrant workers make Cumberland County in southwestern New Jersey their permanent residence, with another 6,500 migrant workers estimated to arrive in the county for farm work each year. If the proposed cut is ultimately enacted, I am convinced that the quality of life for these workers and workers throughout the State and country will fall substantially.

The National Farmworker Jobs Program was created in 1964 to address the specific problems migrant workers face. By the very nature of their employment, migrant workers often find